

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 10. Please amend claims 40, 41, and 48 as indicated below. A list of the claims and their status are shown below.

1-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously presented) A transgenic plant containing a nucleic acid construct comprising a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide possesses β -ketoacyl synthase activity.

34. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 33, wherein expression of said nucleic acid is tissue-specific.

35. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 34, wherein said expression is epidermal cell-specific expression.

36. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 34, wherein said expression is seed-specific expression.

37. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 33, wherein said plant has altered levels of very long chain fatty acids in seeds compared to the levels in a plant lacking expression of said nucleic acid.

38-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently amended) A method of altering the levels of very long chain fatty acids in a plant, comprising the step of:

introducing a nucleic acid construct into a plant, wherein said nucleic acid construct comprises a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide possesses β -ketoacyl synthase activity, wherein said construct is expressed and wherein said polypeptide is effective for altering the levels of very long chain fatty acids in said plant.

41. (Currently amended) The plant of claim 33, wherein said construct further comprises a regulatory element operably linked to said ~~polynucleotide~~ polynucleotide.

42. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 41, wherein said regulatory element is a tissue-specific promoter.

43. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 42, wherein said regulatory element is an epidermal cell-specific promoter.

44. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 42, wherein said regulatory element is a seed-specific promoter that is operably linked in sense orientation to said polynucleotide.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein expression of said nucleic acid is tissue-specific.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said expression is epidermal cell-specific expression.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said expression is seed-specific expression.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 40, wherein said construct further comprises a regulatory element operably linked to said ~~polynucleotide~~ polynucleotide.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein said regulatory element is a tissue-specific promoter.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said regulatory element is an epidermal cell-specific promoter.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said regulatory element is a seed-specific promoter that is operably linked in sense orientation to said polynucleotide.